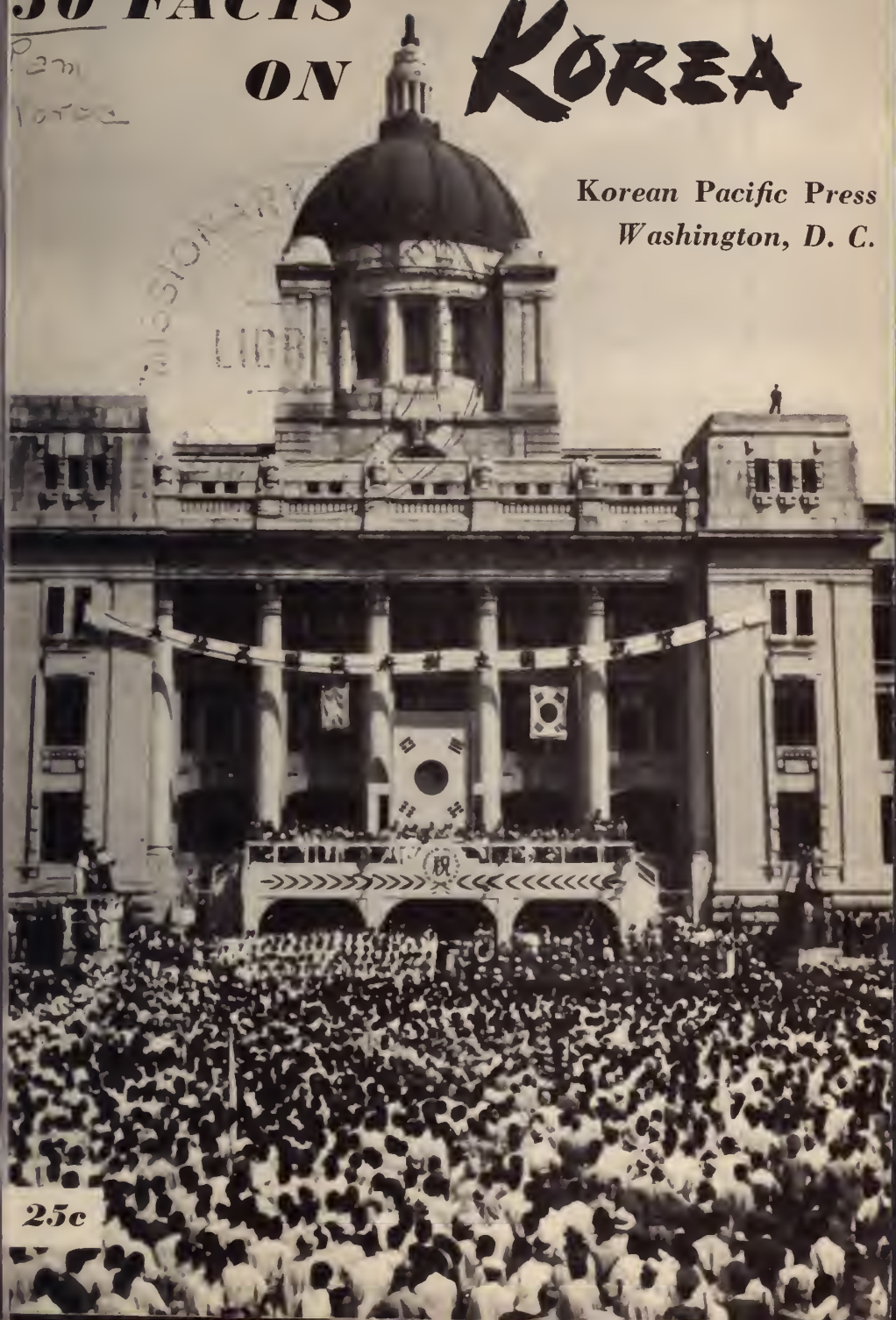


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50 FACTS
ON **KOREA**


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25c

KOREA

LEGEND

-  INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY
-  PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY
-  NATIONAL CAPITOL
-  PROVINCIAL CAPITOL

SCALE IN STATUTE MILES





50 Facts on Korea

1. Koreans are an ancient and homogeneous race, distinct from both the Chinese and the Japanese. Thought to be descendant from two strains, the nomadic tribes of Mongolia and the Caucasian people of western Asia, the Koreans have both Occidental and Oriental characteristics.

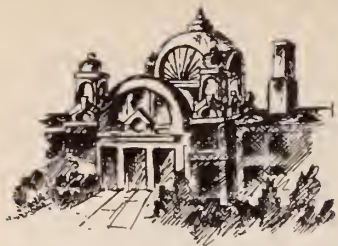
2. Korea is a peninsula bounded by Manchuria and Siberia on the north, with China across the Yellow Sea to the west and the islands of Japan across the straits of Shimonseki to the southeast. The area of Korea, 85,228 square miles, is about the same as all New England plus New Jersey and Delaware. The population of 30 million people makes it twelfth among the nations of the world. Its climate is similar to that of northeastern United States with heavier rainfall in June and July.

3. Korean civilization, one of the oldest in the world, goes back in legend 4,200 years to Dan Goon, mythical founder of Korea. In 1122 B. C., Kija, a Chinese refugee, migrated to Korea with 5,000 followers and set up a dynasty which lasted almost 1,000 years.

4. At the beginning of the Christian era, Korea was divided into three kingdoms, Koguryu, Pakche and Silla. The Silla dynasty, which originated in 57 B. C., united all Korea in 669 A. D., much as the seven kingdoms of ancient Britain were joined together a little later.

Royal Tomb of Kings and Queens, near Seoul





5. The historical name of Korea, Chosen, means "Land of the Morning Calm." This name is figuratively descriptive when one considers that through Korea's long history it has enjoyed a stability and continuity that few nations can claim. Only three dynasties, the Silla, Koryu and Yi, ruled the country from 669 A. D. to 1910.

6. The Koryu dynasty, coming to the throne in 918, initiated an age of enlightened progress similar to that of King Alfred in England. The great Buddhist monasteries date from this period, and their remains and successors may still be seen in the mountain valleys.

7. In 1392 General Yi Sung-kei founded the Yi dynasty which ushered in a golden age similar to the Elizabethan Age in England. During this dynasty, the capital was established at Seoul, a simplified alphabet was developed, books were printed from movable type, universities were founded and literature and the arts flourished. The last Yi king was removed from the throne by the Japanese in 1910.

8. The world's first iron-clad battleships were built by the Korean admiral, Yi Soon-sin, who used them to defeat the Japanese navy during the war of 1592-98. As a result, Japan never got beyond Korea in her first effort to conquer the world and had to give up her plans.

9. Long known as the "Hermit Kingdom," Korea was opened to the outside world by a treaty with the United States proclaimed, in 1883. American engineers helped develop Korean mines and built in Seoul the first modern street railway system in the Orient.

10. In 1905 as a result of the Russo-Japanese war, Korea was made a protectorate of Japan. Five years later the Japanese quietly annexed the peninsula into the Empire. But the Koreans kept alive their desire for independence throughout the occupation.

11. So hostile were the Koreans towards their Japanese overlords that the Japanese disarmed them to the extent of permitting only one kitchen knife for every three families and maintained one policeman for every 100 members of the population. One-tenth of all Koreans fled into the hills as guerrilla fighters or across the border into Manchuria and Siberia.

12. Korean protest against Japanese rule reached a climax with the "passive revolution" of March 1, 1919. In this uprising, which preceded Ghandi's peaceful rebellions in India by three years, the Koreans bore no arms against the Japanese and made no effort to harm them physically. They made known their fervent desire for freedom by cries of "Mansei! Mansei!" which means, "May Korea live ten thousand years!" As a result of this revolution, a Korean provisional government was set up with headquarters in Shanghai.

13. Around the turn of the century, travelers to the Orient noted that the Korean standard of living was the highest in the Far East. It suffered drastically under the severe exploitation of the Japanese and has been undermined again by the separation of the country into two zones with no commerce or communication between them.

14. By a war-time agreement intended to be merely temporary, Korea was divided along the 38th parallel, with Russian troops occupying 56 per cent of the country north of that line and American troops the 44 per cent in the south. The northern area contains the heavy industries and hydro-electric power and the southern zone the agricultural areas and light industries.

15. Despite the fact that Russia refused to let a United Nations Commission enter the northern zone, the UN group conducted elections in the part occupied by the United States on May 10, 1948. Representatives who were elected to the National Assembly chose Syngman Rhee as president, and the Republic of Korea was inaugurated August 15.

16. Personal freedom and equality are the keynotes of the Republic's Constitution. The document includes provisions for social security, labor laws protecting women and children and ownership of farms by those who actually till them.

17. After the inauguration of the Republic, the American Military

Korea's first election





Government turned the administration of the country over to the new Korean government. Almost all American troops had left Korea by the end of June, 1949.

18. The new Republic of Korea is unique among nations of the world in having no national debt. It has the disposition of all expropriated Japanese properties in Korea, which amount to over 80 per cent of all incorporated wealth.

19. In varied mineral and coal deposits and in hydro-electric power potential, Korea has all the resources except oil for extensive industrial development. Among its basic resources are coal, iron,

gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, lithium, mica, nickel, barytes, molybdenum, magnesite, alum, shale, graphite, fluorspar, kaolin and timber.

20. In 1939 Korea was sixth in the world in fisheries exports. Its 11,000-mile coastline makes it ideal for marine life. Its waters contain 75 kinds of edible fish, 20 kinds of edible shellfish and 25 other kinds of commercial sea animals and plants.

21. Korea has 10 first-rate all-weather ports, 27 secondary ports and 139 off-shore anchorages. The tide varies from three feet on the precipitous eastern coast to 33 feet on the south and west.

22. Before the war, the foreign trade of Korea amounted to \$24 per capita, second in the Orient only to that of Japan. Over 90 per cent of its external trade was with Japan. Korea was kept by the Japanese primarily as a supplier of raw materials and as a market for its own surplus goods. Approximately 50 per cent of Korea's annual rice crop was exported to Japan.

23. The railroads and highways of Korea form a great X, intersecting at Seoul and extending to the four corners of the peninsula. Its railway mileage is now far below normal requirements.

24. The Ever White Mountains along the northern border and the majestic Diamond Mountains along the east coast have won for Korea the descriptive title, "Switzerland of Asia." Its scenic attractions are among the most striking in the world.



Coal mine at Hamhaing

Pusan harbor



25. The ancient religion of Korea, Shinkyoism, contains some of the same teachings as Christianity. For instance, Shinkyoists believe in one god whom they call Hananin and in personal sin and punishment. These beliefs provide a foundation upon which missionaries can build in helping Koreans understand Christianity.

26. The Christian religion is thought to have been introduced into Korea at the time of Marco Polo. The first missionary to enter the country was a French Catholic priest, Pierre Maubant, in 1835.

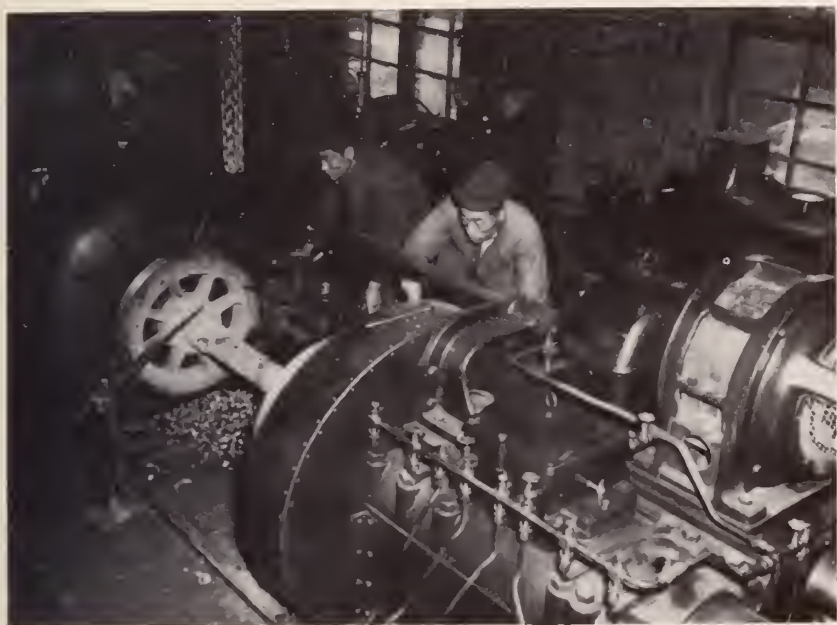
27. The first Protestant missionary to take up permanent residence in Korea was an American physician, Dr. H. H. Allen, who came to Seoul in 1884. Missionaries have been so successful there that they call Korea "the most Christian land in the Orient." Methodists, Presbyterians and Catholics have the greatest following.

28. Korea was one of the first countries in the Far East to adopt a public system of education. It was somewhat similar to that in the United States today. For centuries the Korean government had a cabinet minister for education. Children attending the public schools were taught to read and write Korean and Chinese and were instructed in Confucian ethics.

29. Appointment to public office in old Korea was based on knowledge and intelligence rather than upon class or wealth. Scholars and poets were held in high esteem.

30. During the Japanese occupation, neither Korean history nor the Korean language was taught in Korea's schools. The objective of Japan



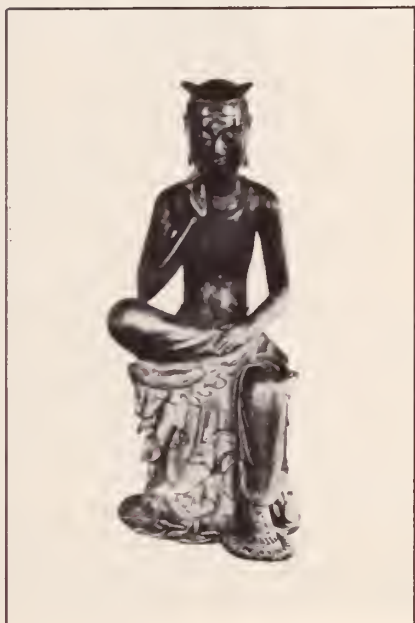


Locomotive shop in Seoul

was to make the Koreans over into inferior Japanese, and Korean school children were punished for speaking their own language instead of Japanese.

31. Thirty-five colleges in South Korea had in 1948 an attendance of 22,636 students. With a simple phonetic alphabet of 25 letters, it is easy for Koreans to learn to read, and the literacy rate is comparable to that of eastern European countries.

32. For many centuries, the Japanese called Korea the Treasure Land of the West. Korean art served as models for Japanese porcelainware, painting and architecture. Korea was the medium through which Chinese and Indian culture were introduced into Japan.





1500-year-old Buddhist temple

33. Korean lacquer-ware, ebony inlaid with mother-of-pearl, is said by experts to be the finest in the world. Authorities on Oriental art describe the best Korean pottery as superior to that of the rest of the Far East because of its "easeful serenity and grace . . . never lapsing into facility or trivial prettiness."

34. Korea's rich heritage of ancient music survives to the present day. The Lee Palace Orchestra, founded more than 500 years ago, still performs ancient court music in the old tradition. Korea also can boast many fine native opera and classical song forms in addition to thousands of folk songs which are readily appreciated by Westerners. Korean concert goers frequently may hear performances by native orchestras of standard Western symphonic works.

35. The best examples of Korean architecture are the Buddhist temples. Following the general pattern of Oriental architecture, these temples are distinguished by their perfect symmetry and their serene, classic lines.

36. In the 15th Century, Korean scholars compiled an encyclopedia in 112 quarto volumes, 300 years before the encyclopedia movement originated in France. A copy is now in the Congressional Library in Washington.

37. The oldest and most continuous records of rainfall kept anywhere in the world are in Korea. In 1442 King Sejo had a bronze instrument constructed to measure precipitation. In 1770 King Eijo revived the system and had rain gauges placed in the palace grounds and in each of

the eight provinces. Records were maintained continuously from that date. They provide an invaluable source of meteorological information.

38. The first king of the Yi dynasty conscripted 200,000 workmen to construct a great wall around his new capitol city of Seoul. It was seven miles long, up to 20 feet wide and from 10 to 20 feet high. It contained four great gates and four smaller ones. Much of the wall, including the famous South and East Gates, still stands. It is well inside the city, which has grown to over a million inhabitants.

39. The ingenuity of the Korean people is evident from their list of inventions, including the spinning wheel (1376), movable metal type (1403), astronomical instruments (1438), surveying instruments (1467), the mariner's compass (1525) and the observation balloon (16th Century). A suspension bridge was built in Korea 300 years before the Brooklyn Bridge was erected.

40. The beautiful and richly symbolic emblems on the Korean flag are among the oldest national symbols in the world. The Korean tiger, larger and fiercer than the Bengal tiger, is the national animal. One of the two Korean national anthems is sung to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne."

41. Korea's ethical system is Confucian. It is based upon the five-fold loyalties: to country, to parents, to husband or wife, to children and to friends.

42. One of the Koreans' favorite folk tales is about a woodgatherer named Paksuni. While watching two old men play chess on a mountainside, he fell asleep. Returning to his village when he awoke, he had the same sort of experience as Rip Van Winkle. The townspeople told him that Paksuni had disappeared 30 years before.

43. Korea had prohibition in the early 18th Century. Persons found guilty of violating a law which prohibited the manufacture and distribution of alcoholic beverages were punished. The use of intoxicants was almost unknown for many years.

44. The traditional dress of Korea consists of loose white robes and baggy trousers for the men and short, close-fitting jackets and vividly-colored flowing skirts



for the women. The Koreans adopted this costume from the Ming dynasty of China.

45. For centuries, Korean homes have been heated by placing flues under the floor, a method just recently being adopted by leading architects of the West. The typical Korean house is built in the shape of a U with a wall enclosing a courtyard at the open end.

46. Rice, fish, poultry, vegetables and fruit are the principal foods in the Korean diet. Aside from rice, the most popular dish is "kim chee," a pickled combination of turnips, onions, celery and other vegetables.

47. The women of Korea enjoy the highest status of any

Guarding the 38th parallel



Korean home

women in Asia. Their feet have never been bound as in China and they have never had to bow before their husbands and sons as in Japan. Today all Koreans over 21, women as well as men, have the right to vote.

48. Korean women today are entering most of the professions open to women in the United States. They are occupying positions as doctors, radio announcers, newspaper editors, photographers and pharmacists as well as teachers and nurses.

49. The Korean children entertain themselves in much the same way as American children do. They see-saw, swing, jump rope and make snowmen. Little girls play house and make their



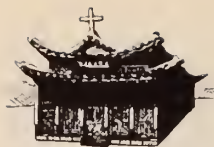
School's out!

own dolls from bamboo. Most of the Korean games test strength, agility or perception.

50. Although more doctors and nurses are needed desperately, the general health level in the Republic of Korea is the highest in the Orient. The shortage of nurses is gradually being lessened as Korean girls become convinced of the dignity of the nursing profession. Nurses were looked upon as mere servants when the Japanese occupied the country.

"Korea has become a testing ground in which the validity and practical value of the ideals and principles of democracy which the Republic is putting into practice are being matched against the practices of communism which have been imposed upon the people of north Korea . . . Moreover, the Korean Republic by demonstrating the success and tenacity of democracy and resisting communism will stand as a beacon to the people of Northern Asia in resisting the control of the communist forces which have overrun them."—President Harry S. Truman.

"With the restoration of Korean independence, one of the great crimes of the Twentieth Century will have been rectified, and another stabilizing factor will have been added to the new international system which must be constructed in the Pacific."
—Sumner Wells, former Under-Secretary of State.



Korean Proverbs

Pinch yourself and you will know the pain another feels when pinched.

Don't draw a sword to kill a mosquito.

A room easily warmed is also easily cooled.

The water downstream will not be clear if the water upstream is muddied.

Beware of a sword hidden behind a smile.

It is easier to know water ten fathoms deep than to know a man one fathom high.

Blame yourself, not the stream, when you fall in the water.

A virtuous character is necessary even in driving a cow.

Thread goes wherever the needle takes it.

Don't look fierce in the western part of town after you have been hit in the eastern part.

If you love your own children, love also those of others.

Feeding a hungry man is better than making offerings to Buddha.

A dead premier is worth less than a live dog.

The darkest spot is just below a candle.

A man who has burned his tongue on hot soup is likely to blow on cold water.

You cannot carry a stone up the mountain without getting red in the face.

You cannot catch even one rabbit if you chase two at once.

Don't try to cut water with a sword.

You cannot eat the picture of a loaf of bread.

Even the hedgehog says her young are smooth.

Where there are no tigers, wildcats will be very self-important.

The cook blames the table because he cannot pile the food high.

A man who once has been frightened by a tortoise will jump every time he sees a kettle cover.

It is useless to pour instruction into a sow's ear.

The man who eats the salt must drink the water.

It is foolish to mourn over a broken vase.

Don't kill a bullock for a feast when a hen would suffice.

Never beg from a man who has been a beggar himself.

To make a mountain, you must carry every load of earth.

A finger prick will demand attention, though the worms be eating the heart unknown.

What looked like blossoms on the dead tree turned out to be only the white mold of decay.

You cannot sit in the valley and see the new moon set.

The flower that blooms in the morning is withered by noon.

If you use good enough bait, the fish will bite, though it kill.

You can mend with a trowel today what it will take a spade to mend tomorrow.







Important Dates in Korean History

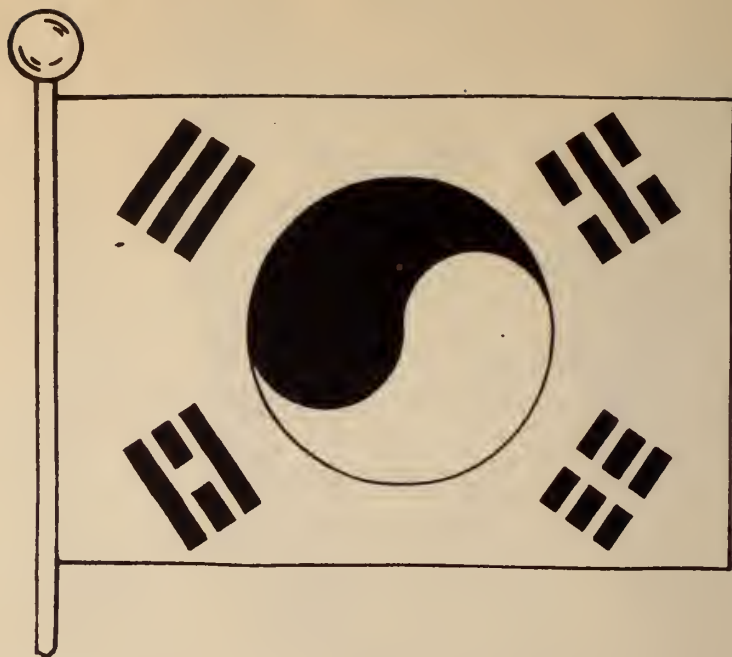
1. November 3, 2333 B. C.—Legendary founding of Korea by Dan Goon.
2. 1122 B. C.—Introduction of Chinese culture into Korea by Kija, a Chinese refugee.
3. 57 B. C.—Establishment of the Silla kingdom, which in 669 A. D. united all Korea.
4. 647 A. D.—Building of observatory, the oldest structure erected for observational purposes existing in the world, at Kyungju by the Silla ruler.
5. June 15, 918—Establishment of Koryu dynasty.
6. September 25, 1251—Movable wooden type invented.
7. May 4, 1277—Buddhist monk, Yukyun, invented artificial glass tiles, leading to the development of Korean ceramics.
8. July 17, 1392—Establishment of Yi dynasty.
9. January 7, 1402—Paper currency initiated.
10. February 13, 1403—Movable metal type invented.
11. April 15, 1437—Sundial invented.
12. May 8, 1442—Barometer invented.
13. October 9, 1446—Korean alphabet of 11 vowels and 14 consonants promulgated.
14. October 27, 1470—Codification of Korean law by Kyong Kuk Daichum.
15. July 8, 1592—The “tortoise boat,” world’s first iron-clad vessel, used by Admiral Yi Soon-sin to defeat Japanese invaders at Hansando, Korea.
16. September 7, 1592—Flying bomb invented by Lee Chang Son to repulse Japanese.
17. September 11, 1867—Submarine bomb invented by Shin Kwan Ho.

18. May 22, 1882—Korean-American treaty signed, Korea's first trade treaty with a Western power.
19. January 27, 1883—National flag designed from combination of ancient symbols.
20. October 1, 1883—Hanyang Shinbo, first modern Korean newspaper established.
21. October 8, 1895—Queen Min murdered, apparently at the instruction of the Japanese Viscount Miura.
22. August 26, 1910—Annexation of Korea by Japan.
23. March 1, 1919—Declaration of independence signed by 33 patriots, leading to establishment of Provisional Government of Korea in Exile.
24. May 10, 1948—United Nations-sponsored election held in southern Korea.
25. August 15, 1948—Establishment of Republic of Korea, with Syngman Rhee as first president.

“ . . . Under the old monarchical system, the people left all the affairs of the nation entirely in the hands of those in the government without any participation in it. But under a democratic government, the people are the rulers of the nation, and if the rulers neglect their duties, the nation will again fall into jeopardy. From now on, every citizen, man or woman, must realize that he or she has an equal share of responsibility, authority and power and must exert all his or her energies to work and struggle to consolidate and strengthen the foundation of the state, which in turn will safeguard his or her individual rights and privileges so as to make steady progress toward the prosperity of our nation. . . .”—Dr. Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of Korea.

“ . . . To promote the welfare of the people, to maintain permanent international peace and thereby to assure Security, Liberty and Happiness to ourselves and our posterity. . . .”—From the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Korea, enacted July 12, 1948.





Other publications available from the Korean Pacific Press:

“The Republic of Korea Looks Ahead”

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Biographical Sketch of President Syngman Rhee

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